

**JIMINY CRICKET'S ENVIRONMENTALITY CHALLENGE AWARD PRESENTED
TO GRAND PRIZE WINNING CLASS FROM MIANO ELEMENTARY**

ANAHEIM, Calif. (May 9, 2002) – A multi-age class of fourth and fifth graders from Miano Elementary School in Los Banos, Merced County, was honored today as the Grand Prize winner of the eighth annual Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge, a statewide competition designed to promote environmental awareness and action in the classroom.

During a special awards ceremony at Disney's California Adventure, Miano school teacher, Stephanie Sparks, and her class of 30 students were honored by Roy E. Disney, Vice Chairman of the Board for The Walt Disney Company; Delaine Eastin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Renee Hoyos, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Resources; Karen Manor, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Food & Agriculture/Executive Director of the State Board of Food and Agriculture; Linda Moulton-Patterson, Board Chair, California Integrated Waste Management Board; and Kym Murphy, Senior Vice President, Environmental Policy, The Walt Disney Company.

"It's really heartwarming for me, and all of us here at The Walt Disney Company, to see so many young people working together, in their schools and communities, to make a real difference in our environment, both for today and for the future," said Roy E. Disney.

Ms. Sparks' class won the competition with their project "Every Wetland Counts." As part of this project, the class developed a wetlands Web site, stenciled storm drains, educated the community about the effects of harmful waste dumped down storm drains, created a wetlands mural, and made a presentation before the city council. This is the second Grand Prize award for Miano teacher Stephanie Sparks.

Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge is sponsored by The Walt Disney Company and the State of California's Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN). Since its inception in 1994, more than 359,900 California students have participated in this program that encourages students to think and act environmentally at school, at home, and in their community.

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